

PCT

NOTIFICATION RELATING TO PRIORITY CLAIM

(PCT Rules 26bis.1 and 26bis.2 and Administrative Instructions, Sections 402 and 409)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

То

SIMS, Anthony, W. 29 Clarence Street Private Bag 3140 Hamilton 2001 NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE

	Hamilton 2001 NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE
Date of mailing (day/month/year)	
13 June 2000 (13.06.00)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
16979/3X083	INFORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)
PCT/NZ00/00012	10 February 2000 (10.02.00)
Applicant	
CARDAX INTERNATIONAL LIMITED et al	
The applicant is hereby notified of the following in respect of the	e priority claim(s) made in the international application.
1. X Correction of priority claim. In accordance with the application the following priority claim has been corrected to read as	follows:
N∠ 11 Februar even though the indication of the number of the earlie	y 1999 (11.02.99) 334139
	aim is not the same as the corresponding indication appearing
Addition of priority claim. In accordance with the applicanthe following priority claim has been added:	nt's notice received on: ,
even though the indication of the number of the earli	er application is missing.
even though the following indication in the priority cla in the priority document:	aim is not the same as the corresponding indication appearing
3. As a result of the correction and/or addition of (a) priority	claim(s) under items 1 and/or 2, the (earliest) priority date is:
4. Priority claim considered not to have been made.	
The applicant failed to respond to the Invitation under The applicant's notice was received after the expiration	r Rule 26bis.2(a) (Form PCT/IB/316) within the prescribed time limit.
	im so as to comply with the requirements of Rule 4.10.
	international publication have been completed and subject to the lish, together with the international application, information PCT Applicant's Guide, Volume I, Annex B2(IB).
5. In case where multiple priorities have been claimed, the	
6. A copy of this notification has been sent to the receiving Office	ce and
X to the International Searching Authority (where the internX) the designated Offices (which have already been notified	
The International Ruragu of WIPO	Authorized officer

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

R. Raissi

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

Form PCT/IB/318 (July 1998)

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

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To:

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office Box PCT

Washington, D.C.20231 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 06 October 2000 (06.10.00)	in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/NZ00/00012	Applicant's or agent's file reference 16979/3X083
International filing date (day/month/year) 10 February 2000 (10.02.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 11 February 1999 (11.02.99)
Applicant BODY, Nicholas, Bernard et al	

1.	The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:
	X in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
	22 August 2000 (22.08.00)
	in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2.	The election X was was not
	made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Claudio Borton

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Form PCT/IB/331 (July 1992)

NZ0000012



PCT

NOTIFICATION RELATING TO PRIORITY CLAIM

(PCT Rules 26bis.1 and 26bis.2 and Administrative Instructions, Sections 402 and 409)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

SIMS, Anthony, W.

	29 Clarence Street Private Bag 3140 Hamilton 2001 NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE
Date of mailing (day/month/year) 13 June 2000 (13.06.00)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 16979/3X083	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/NZ00/00012	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 February 2000 (10.02.00)
Applicant CARDAX INTERNATIONAL LIMITED et al	
The applicant is hereby notified of the following in respect of the	priority claim(s) made in the international application.
Correction of priority claim. In accordance with the application the following priority claim has been corrected to read as NZ 11 Februar	
even though the indication of the number of the earlie even though the following indication in the priority cla in the priority document:	er application is missing. aim is not the same as the corresponding indication appearing
2. Addition of priority claim. In accordance with the applicanthe following priority claim has been added:	nt's notice received on: ,
even though the indication of the number of the earlied even though the following indication in the priority claim the priority document:	er application is missing. aim is not the same as the corresponding indication appearing
3. As a result of the correction and/or addition of (a) priority	claim(s) under items 1 and/or 2, the (earliest) priority date is:
The applicant's notice was received after the expiration The applicant's notice failed to correct the priority claim The applicant may, before the technical preparations for i	im so as to comply with the requirements of Rule 4.10. International publication have been completed and subject to the Ilish, together with the international application, information PCT Applicant's Guide, Volume I, Annex B2(IB).
6. A copy of this notification has been sent to the receiving Offic X to the International Searching Authority (where the intern X the designated Offices (which have already been notified	ational search report has not yet been issued).
The International Pursua of MRDO	Authorized officer

34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

R. Raissi

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Form PCT/IB/318 (July 1998)

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

	(PCT Art	ticle 36 and Rule 70)	14
Applicant's or agent's file reference 16979/3X083	FOR FURTHER ACTION		ransmittal of International Preliminary (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/NZ00/00012	International Filing 10 February 2000	Date (day/month/year)	Priority Date (day/month/year) 11 February 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC)	or national classificat	ion and IPC	
Int. Cl. ⁷ G08B 13/196, H04N 7/18	3		
Applicant			
CARDAX INTERNATIONAI	LIMITED et al		
This international preliminary and is transmitted to the applic	examination report ha ant according to Artic	as been prepared by this In tele 36.	ternational Preliminary Examining Authority
2. This REPORT consists of a to	tal of 3 sheets, incl	uding this cover sheet.	•
been amended and are th	e basis for this report	S, i.e., sheets of the descrip and/or sheets containing r tive Instructions under the	otion, claims and/or drawings which have ectifications made before this Authority (see PCT).
These annexes consist of a tota	of \mathcal{L} sheet(s).		
3. This report contains indications relating	ng to the following ite	ms:	
I X Basis of the repor	t s		
II Priority	-		
III Non-establishmen	t of opinion with rega	ard to novelty, inventive st	ep and industrial applicability
IV Lack of unity of in	ivention		
V X Reasoned stateme citations and expla	nt under Article 35(2) anations supporting su) with regard to novelty, in uch statement	ventive step or industrial applicability;
VI Certain document	s cited		
VII Certain defects in	the international appl	ication	
VIII Certain observation	ons on the internationa	al application	
Date of submission of the demand		Date of completion of the	ereport
22 August 2000		20 March 2001	•
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU		Authorized Officer	
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTR	RALIA		
E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au		CATHY REES	
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Internation	onal	app	licat	ion	No

PCT/NZ00/00012

1.	Basis of the report
1.	With regard to the elements of the international application:*
	the international application as originally filed.
	X the description, pages 1 - 8, as originally filed,
	pages, filed with the demand,
	pages, received on with the letter of
	X the claims, pages, as originally filed,
	pages, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
	pages, filed with the demand,
	pages 9, 10, received on 13 March 2001 with the letter of 6 March 2001
	X the drawings, pages 1, as originally filed,
	pages, filed with the demand,
	pages, received on with the letter of
	the sequence listing part of the description:
	pages , as originally filed
	pages, filed with the demand
	pages, received on with the letter of
2.	With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is: the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
	the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
	the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3.	With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing:
	contained in the international application in written form.
	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
	furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
	furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
	The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
	The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished
4.	X The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
	the description, pages
	X the claims, Nos. 16
	the drawings, sheets/fig.
5.	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**
*	Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this
**	report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17). Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under its all the state of the
	Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report



International application No.

NO

YES

YES

PCT/NZ00/00012

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement				
1.	Statement				
	Novelty (N)	Claims 1 - 15	YES		
		Claims	NO		

Inventive step (IS) Claims 1 - 15

> Claims NO

Industrial applicability (IA) Claims 1 - 15

> Claims NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Citations:

- a) US 3988533
- b) WO 81/03730
- c) WO82/01454
- d) EP 546941

Novelty (N) and Inventive Step (IS):

The invention as claimed is novel when compared with the above citations. The citations do not disclose an independent and different output for each sector. The multiple outputs of the present invention can control security access, trigger recognition sequences, cause silent alarms and send audible alarms. This is not disclosed in any of the prior art. The invention as claimed must, therefore, be considered to be both novel and involve an inventive step.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE:

- A method of operating a monitoring system using an image capture device, the
 method characterised by the steps of
 - a) defining a number of sectors on the field of view of the image capture device, and
 - assigning independent monitoring and control parameters to each of the sectors, and
 - c) signalling different and independent outputs for the sectors
- 2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the positioning and size of the sectors are variable and selectable by an operator of the system.
- 3. A method as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each sector can be enabled simultaneously or independently with the other sectors.
- 4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein each sector has assigned to it at least one event definition parameter.
- 5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein at least one of the event definitions is motion detection.
- 6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein an output is the storage of data relating to an event.
- 7. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein an output is motion tracking by the image capture device.
- 8. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein an output is the triggering of an alarm.
- 9. A monitoring system operable by the method claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 8.

- 10. Hardware containing a set of instructions for operation of a monitoring system according to the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.
- 11. A camera operable by the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.
- 12. A method substantially as herein described with reference to and a s illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
- 13. A monitoring system substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
- 14. Hardware substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
- 15. A camera substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ00/00012 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl. 7: G08B13/196, H04N 7/18 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G08B 13/196, H04N 7/18, G06T 7/20 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: IPC AS ABOVE Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Derwent C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 3988533, A (Mick et al.) 26 October 1976 X Whole document: in particular col 1 lines 55 - 60, col 9 lines 25 - 63, 1 - 16 col 11 lines 9 - 26 WO 81/03730, A (Mick and Beck) 24 December 1981 Whole document: in particular page 12 line 37 - page 13 line 5, X 1 - 16 page 16 line 24 - page 17 line 13 WO 82/01454, A (The Commonwealth of Australia) 29 April 1982 X Whole document: in particular page 3 lines 22 - page 4 line 31, 1 - 16page 6 lines 10 - 24, page 7 line 25 - page 8 line 27. X X See patent family annex Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance understand the principle or theory underlying the invention ngn "X" earlier application or patent but published on or after document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot the international filing date be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) inventive step when the document is taken alone or which is cited to establish the publication date of document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot another citation or other special reason (as specified) be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, combined with one or more other such documents, such exhibition or other means combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art ייקיי document published prior to the international filing document member of the same patent family date but later than the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 09 JUNE 2000 23 May 2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU Authorized officer AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA **CATHERINE REES** E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/NZ00/00012

C (Continue	PCT/NZ00/00	012						
	C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT							
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.						
	EP 546941, A (Goldstar Co. Ltd.) 16 June 1993							
X	Whole document: in particular col 1 line 57 - col 2 line 10, col 3 line 16 - line 39	1, 2						
Α	DE 3214254, A (Geutebruck Videotechnik GmbH) 20 October 1983							
A	DE 19603935, A (Robert Bosch GmbH) 7 August 1997							
A	DE 19603766, A (Gieselmann) 7 August 1997							

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT Information on patent family members

International application No. PCT/NZ00/00012

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Do	cument Cited in Search Report			Patent	t Family Member		
US	3988533	US	4081830				
wo .	81/030730	AU	74182/81	BR	8108645	CA	1181163
		EP	53185	US	4337481		
wo	82/01454	AU	77221/81	CA	1172746	EP	62655
		US	4458266				
EP	546941	US	5339104				
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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- (74) Agents: SIMS, Anthony, W. et al.; 29 Clarence Street, Private Bag 3140, Hamilton 2001 (NZ).

(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

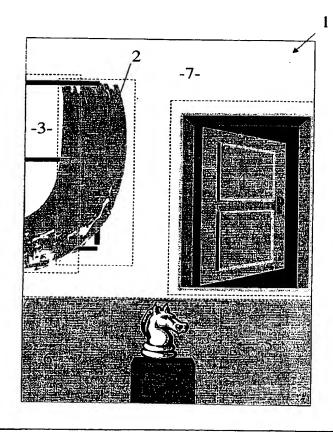
With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO CONTROL AND/OR MONITORING SYSTEMS

(57) Abstract

The present invention provides a method of operating a monitoring system using a visual image capture device, the method characterised by the steps of defining a number of sectors on the field of view of the visual image capture device, and assigning independent monitoring and control parameters to each of the sectors.





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TO RELATING OR IN

MONITORING SYSTEMS

This invention relates to improvements in or relating to control and/or monitoring systems.

Reference throughout the specification should be made to the present invention in 5 relation to security systems which are in fact control and/or monitoring systems.

BACKGROUND ART

An increasing number of security systems are being installed world-wide. Further, existing security systems are continually being upgraded as technology becomes smarter, more monitoring/control devices are available, and the desire for increased security increases.

One security device in which there has been considerable development is the video camera.

Previously, video cameras were used as passive means to monitor security situations. That is, the security video camera would capture images in its field of view and relay these to an operator on a security system who may be viewing a number of monitors or a single monitor showing views from multiple cameras.

The video camera has evolved further to have the ability to detect motion which can be defined as an alarm situation requiring some action or notification from the security system.

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Some cameras have the ability to mask out sections of an image from the motion detection. For example, in a field of view there may be considerable motion happening such as trees moving in the wind, curtains blowing or traffic passing by a window. Thus these cameras allow the areas of the image to have motion associated with them which does not trigger an alarm situation. The rest of the image however may trigger alarm situations as normal.

The operator of the security system can choose which sections can be masked out, but generally these sections are predefined. Further, there are limitations in that if motion is detected in a certain section that is not masked out, there is only one possible response to that motion, generally an alarm signal. So effectively the image has on and off areas assigned to raising an alarm if there is motion or not depending on which area the motion occurs.

It would be desirable if there could be provided a security system that provides a greater flexibility than previous systems.

It is object of the present invention to address the above problems, at least to provide the consumer with the useful choice.

Further objects of the present invention will now become apparent from the following description which is given by way of example only.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of operating a monitoring system using an image capture device, the method characterised by the steps of

- 5 (a) defining a number of sectors of a field of view of the image capture device, and
 - (b) assigning independent monitoring and control parameters to each of the sectors.

Further embodiments of the present invention include a monitoring system which is operable by the method as described above, hardware containing a set of instructions for operation of a monitoring system and a camera operable by the method claimed above.

The monitoring system may be any suitable security system or other type of monitoring system and it may in some embodiments be just a camera itself.

The image capture device again may be any suitable apparatus but for ease of reference throughout this specification it shall be referred to as a camera. In preferred embodiments, the image capture device is a digital video camera.

The field of view of the camera is the area that the camera sees when in its usual position.

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The sectors in the field of view can be in preferred embodiments of the present invention any size, shape or number. For ease of use, it is envisaged that in one embodiment of the present invention the shape of the sectors will be rectangular.

However, it is an aspect of the present invention that the sectors can be any size and of variable positioning and variable length to width ratio. It is a feature of the preferred embodiments that the sectors can overlap if desired by the operator. While the number of sectors need not be limiting, the applicant believes that having the ability to define approximately ten sectors is adequate.

Thus, the sectors may be chosen in a position to cover certain areas such as for example, curtains, windows, doorways, security panels, trees, moving traffic, passageways and any other areas of interest in which it is desired to have monitoring and control parameters which are independent of other sectors.

Preferably, the sectors are independent of each other and are enabled simultaneously.

There may be a number of different monitoring parameters within the security system that could be assigned to each sector. The monitoring parameters are preferably event detection parameters.

For example, one event detection parameter that is assigned is motion detection. The actual threshold of motion detection may vary for each sector. For example, the threshold for motion detection may be high in sectors which cover background movement, such as blowing leaves, curtains and traffic. The threshold for motion

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detection may be lower in sectors which normally have no movement, such as valuable museum artefacts.

There may be other monitoring parameters as well. For example, there may be a monitoring parameter which is purely visual which does not take note if there is movement, but merely transmits the image to the operator of the security system. Another event detection parameter may not be movement, but may be a change of colour or light intensity. For example, a particular sector may be sensitive to the turning on or off of a light, for example, a security light.

As another example, the sector may be sensitive to lack of movement, for example
when monitoring people, babies or animals.

There may be a variety of control parameters that is possible to assign to a sector as well. A basic control parameter may merely be the relaying of the image received by the camera in a certain sector to the operator of the security system. Another control parameter would be the signalling of a silent alarm to the operator of the security system or in some sectors may be other stages of alarm, such as an audible alarm and so forth.

Another control parameter may be the opening or closing of doors, windows or other security devices.

For example, a person may walk to a door corresponding to a sector in the field of view of the camera. One of the monitoring parameters in that sector may be face recognition. The control parameter may be to open the door if the face is recognised as that of a person allowed access through the door.

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Another control option may be to operate other peripheral devices attached to the security system. For example, there may be provided an intercom attached to the security system which plays a message once a person enters a certain sector. Another control parameter may be motion tracking, turning the camera to follow movement that went originally across one of the sectors.

In some embodiments of the present invention, the operator of the security system may be able to pre-program a number of sectors according to the angle at which the camera is oriented. For example, the camera may have a usual orientation with standard images coming into its field of view. However, if the camera is used to track motion, and the angle of the camera is altered, another set of sectors may be required with the appropriate monitoring and control parameters for the new field of view.

In preferred embodiments, each sector can be disabled/enabled individually by either a pre-programmed schedule or by setting (arming) or unsetting (disarming) the security zones.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The present invention will now be described for example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is the diagrammatic representation of one embodiment of the present invention.

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BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Figure 1 illustrates a possible field of view generally indicated by arrow 1, seen by a digital video camera (not shown).

In the field of view (1) there are a number of different items including a curtain (2) beside a window (3), a door (4) and an artefact generally indicated by arrow 5, and a passageway (6).

Each of the objects (2-6) have different sectors associated with them. These sectors are indicated by rectangles outlined in dash, with a dash-lined border. What should also be appreciated is that the area (7) of the field of view (1) which does not have a dashed rectangular border can also be viewed as a separate sector.

Each of the sectors (2-7) are independent of each other and enabled simultaneously. These all have different event definition and control parameters associated with them.

For example, sector (2) has a high threshold of motion detection associated with it as it is quite conceivable that the curtain may move in the wind. Sector (3) has a lower detection of movement associated with it so that the monitor is sensitive to movement of the window itself but less sensitive to movement outside of the window. If this sector (3) detects a gross motion, then the associated control parameter may be to signal an alert to the operator of the security system.

Sector (4) has no threshold of motion detection associated with it as any movement near the door may trigger a recognition sequence and possibly the control parameter may be to open the door if there is satisfactory recognition.

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Any movement in the vicinity of sector (5) which is the artefact, may trigger an alarm situation.

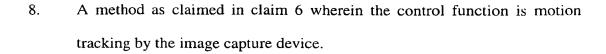
It should be noted that sector (6) overlaps with sector (5) which is one of the useful embodiments of the present invention. While the sectors can operate independently, there may also be configured in the software of the present invention recognition of inter-relationships between sectors. For example, movement in sector (5) will not trigger an alarm situation if there has been corresponding movement in sector (6) – there may only be an alert situation triggered then.

Sector (7) is significant in that it is the portion that is not defined by dashed rectangles. This sector may have no monitoring or control parameters or may have similar parameters assigned to it as in the other sectors.

Aspects of the present invention have been described by way of example only and it should be appreciated that modifications and additions may be made thereto without departing from the scope thereof as defined in the appended claims.

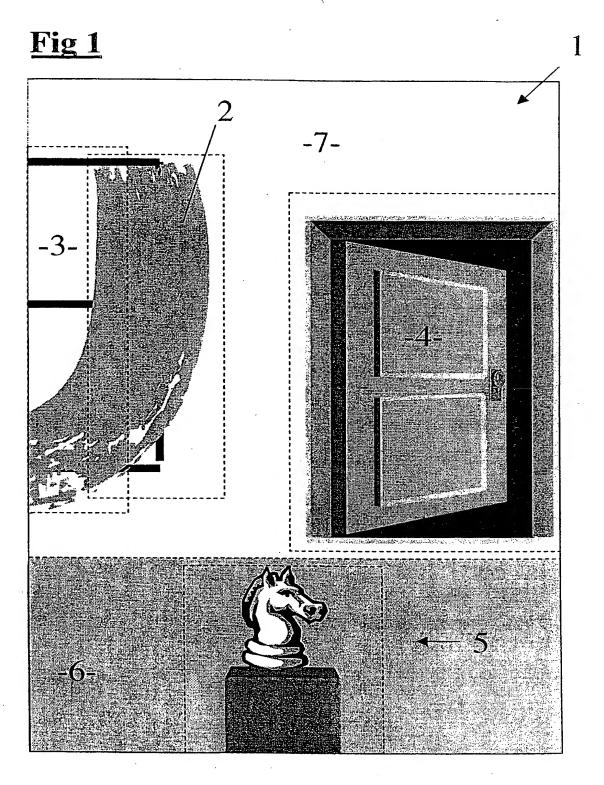
THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE:

- A method of operating a monitoring system using an image capture device,
 the method characterised by the steps of
 - a) defining a number of sectors on the field of view of the image capture device, and
 - assigning independent monitoring and control parameters to each of the sectors.
- 2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the positioning and size of the sectors are selectable by an operator of the system.
- 3. A method as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each sector can be enabled simultaneously with the other sectors.
- 4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein each sector has assigned to it at least one event definition parameter.
- 5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein at least one of the event definitions is motion detection.
- 6. A method as claimed in either claim 4 or claim 5 wherein one of the parameters is a control function linked to an event definition.
- 7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the control function is the storage of data relating to an event.



- 9. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the control function is the triggering of an alarm.
- 10. A monitoring system operable by the method claimed in any one of the claims 1/to 9.
- Hardware containing a set of instructions for operation of a monitoring system according to the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.
- 12. A camera operable by the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.
- 13. A method substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
- 14. A monitoring system substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
- 15. Hardware substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
- 16. A camera substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

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